

## **COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAINWALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION**

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<b>Walk description originally prepared by:-</b>	Ralph Phipps	
<b>Last Updated</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2013	
<b>Title of Walk</b>	Bernia circuit via Forat	
<b>Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)</b>	Restaurante Sierra Bernia car park on the CV749. Best approached from Jalon or Benissa.	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km</b>	9	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m</b>	420	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops</b>	2.75hrs 3.66hrs	
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)</b>	MS/C	
<b>Grid reference of start point (if known)</b>	Lat:- 38.672142, Long:- -0.046091	
<b>Directions to Start</b>	From Jalon, take the CV749 and at a T-jnc after km 11 where the road turns L continue ahead to pass a large building (Restaurante Sierra Bernia) on your LHS and park on rough ground just after this on the LHS. From Benissa follow the CV749 until after km 12 reach a T-jnc and turn L, pass the Restaurante Sierra Bernia and park on the LHS.	
<b>Short walk description</b>	A classic and very popular circuit around this rock bound ridge taking in a steep ascent with a little easy scrambling, a short "passageway" and a return half across the flank of the mountain with a ruined fort and classic mountain views of the subsidiary summits of Severino and Ovenga.	
<b>Full Walk Description</b>		<b>Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far</b>
<p>From the car park continue SW for 100m before examining the information boards about the mountain and then continuing SE still on tarmac.</p> <p>When the tarmac runs out ignore the first fork on the RHS and then a little further also ignore the second fork on the RHS to continue slightly downhill on a track.</p> <p>When you arrive at a fuente with a large water tank climb up the steps at the LH end of this and walk straight ahead onto a footpath with Y/W.</p> <p>When this reach a shallow barranco ignore the thin footpath going steeply up the</p>		1.2km. 15mins

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barranco and instead follow the Y/W markers around to the L.

Cross a small boulder field as the path continues steeply uphill in sections with short rest sections between.

After passing directly below some crags turn up towards a rocky corner and clamber up beside (or on) a slab to reach easier ground above. This is the most difficult part of the route.

Reach the "passageway" - a tunnel through the rock to the other side of the mountain through which you have to crouch and squirm. It is best to remove your rucksacs and carry them in front of you for this.

2.6km, 50mins

At the other side enjoy the views down the coast, over Benidorm, Altea, Albir and the Sierra Helada on the coast before turning R on the Y/W path and continuing. Do not be tempted to go downhill directly in front of the cave entrance but make sure you turn to the R at the earliest opportunity to find the path.

Follow the path downhill and soon reach a complex area of very large boulders which you must thread through carefully before returning to much easier ground.

Pass an area of almost continuous scree with occasional mature kermes oak trees before turning up and to the R towards the bed of a gully.

After a section of scree running downhill we reach a finger-post where we take the option on the R signed to the Fort and proceed to climb steadily to crest a spur of the mountain with a few scattered trees.

Soon after this the fort comes into view and it is worth taking a little time to examine the many features of this and reading the notice boards (which are regularly vandalised and replaced!)

5.7km. 1Hr  
53mins

From the fort thread your way through the ruins as level as you can to pick up the Y/W at the far side and head directly towards a col between Bernia and Severino.

6.1km, 2hr 1min

Pass through this and turn R and downhill on a very clear path with perhaps the most stunning views of all of the mountain and crags of Severino and the Algar valley below.

The path reaches a shallow col between the Bernia and Ovenga and drifts around to the R to become a wider track.

6.9km, 2hr  
14mins

Follow this ahead with views of the car park almost always clear and down through zig-zags to reach your car.

### **Walk Recommendations or restrictions**

Good head for heights required on short sections



Route followed is outlined in red

